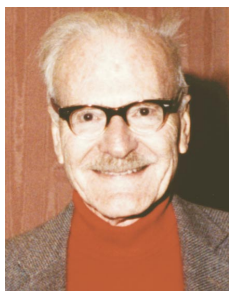


Medwin Tops List of ASA Awardees

During its 141st meeting, held in Chicago in June, the Acoustical Society of America presented awards to three individuals. **Herman Medwin** received the 2001 Gold Medal, ASA's highest honor, for his "innovative research in ocean acoustics and leadership and service to the society." Medwin is an emeritus professor of physics at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and founder and CEO of Ocean Acoustics Associates in Pebble Beach, California.



MEDWIN

The R. Bruce Lindsay Award went this year to **Andrew J. Oxenham** for "contributions to the measurement of peripheral auditory nonlinearity, and to understanding its effects in normal and hearing-impaired listeners." Oxenham is a research scientist in the sensory communications group at MIT's Research Laboratory of Electronics.

The Helmholtz-Rayleigh Interdisciplinary Silver Medal was awarded to **William M. Hartmann**, a professor of physics at Michigan State University, for his "research and education in psychological and physiological acoustics, architectural acoustics, musical acoustics, and signal processing."

AAPT Honors Four at New York Meeting

The American Association of Physics Teachers bestowed honors on four individuals at its 123rd meeting, held in Rochester in July.

The 2001 Robert A. Millikan Award was given to **Sallie A. Watkins**, a professor emeritus of physics and the former dean of the college of science and mathematics at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. She received the award in recognition of her "ability to identify and solve major problems in physics education and her track record in supporting those of us also working on these very difficult problems."

Virginia Trimble, a professor of physics at the University of Maryland, College Park, and the University of California, Irvine, received the 2001 Klopsteg Memorial Lecture Award. Trimble, who was cited for her leadership, her contributions to the literature, and her dedication as a teacher, gave a talk entitled "Cosmology: Man's Place in the Universe."

Robert Erlich, a professor of physics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, received the Excellence in Undergraduate Physics Teaching Award for his contributions in "teaching undergraduate physics, in the use of technology, in making physics accessible to the public, and in analyzing the issues facing undergraduate physics."

The 2001 Excellence in Pre-College Physics Teaching Award went to **Clarence Bakken**, a teacher at Gunn High School in Palo Alto, California. Bakken was recognized for his achievements over 30 years of teaching physics and working with physics teachers and his leadership in the physics teaching community, including his activities as an apparatus developer, writer, and presenter of workshops.

Princeton Physicist Garners Dirac Medal

John J. Hopfield, a professor of computational neurobiology and biophysics at Princeton University, was awarded the Dirac Medal on 8 August by the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy. With the award, the ICTP has recognized, for the first time, the very different mode of theory that is necessary for making the connection between physics and biology.

Each year on 8 August, ICTP commemorates the birthday of physicist and Nobel Prize winner P. A. M. Dirac by presenting the medal in recognition of significant contributions to theoretical physics and mathematics. This year's medal acknowledges Hopfield's "important contributions in an impressively broad spectrum of scientific subjects." The ICTP points out that his "special and rare gift is his ability to cross the interdisciplinary boundary to discover new questions and propose answers that uncover the conceptual structure behind the

experimental facts."

Hopfield's achievements include the Hopfield model of neural processing, which demonstrates how computation is qualitatively different in a computer compared with that in the brain and relates some of the brain's "neural algorithms" to the mathematics of magnetic systems. More recently, according to the ICTP, "he has found an entirely different [collective] organizing principle in olfaction and demonstrated a new principle in which neural function can take advantage of the temporal structure of the 'spiking' interneural communication."

In addition to the medal, Hopfield received a prize of \$5000.

Three Share Kyoto Prize in Advanced Technology

In November, the Inamori Foundation in Kyoto, Japan, will present to five winners the annual Kyoto Prizes, which are given in the categories of advanced technology, basic sciences, and arts and philosophy. Of the winners, three work in physics.

The Kyoto Prize in the advanced technology category will go jointly to **Zhores Alferov**, **Izuo Hayashi**, and **Morton B. Panish** for "success in continuous operation of semiconductor lasers at room temperature—a pioneering step in optoelectronics." Alferov is the director of the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. Hayashi retired in 1994 as director of the Optoelectronics Technology Research Laboratory in Tsukuba, Japan, although he continued as an adviser to the lab until 1996. He remains active in the field, giving invited lectures and talks. Panish retired in 1992 as a distinguished member of the technical staff with AT&T Bell Labs (now Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies) in Murray Hill, New Jersey. He continues to pursue his interests in photography and in things scientific such as paleontology and astronomy.

The prize presentation ceremony will be held at the Kyoto International Conference Hall. There, these three winners will each receive a diploma and a medal, and they will share the prize money of 50 million yen (about \$409 000).